

CLAIMS

1. A method of acquiring description data for broadcast audiovisual content, the method comprising:
 - a step (28) in which a receiver terminal (12)
5 transmits at least one information request to at least one server (16) of audiovisual content descriptions;
and
 - a step (30) of the receiver terminal (12)
receiving description data supplied as a function of
10 elements of the request;
the method being characterized in that it includes a prior step (20, 22, 24) of acquiring and storing in the receiver terminal (12) at least one initial information request comprising the address of at least
15 one audiovisual content description server (16) and a step (26) of generating the request on the basis of the previously-acquired initial request.
2. A description data acquisition method according to
20 claim 1, characterized in that during the reception step (30), audiovisual content description data is supplied as a function of a relationship between at least one date and time associated with the request and the broadcast date and time of the audiovisual content.
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3. A description data acquisition method according to claim 2, characterized in that the date and time associated with the request corresponds to the date and time at which the request is transmitted.
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4. A description data acquisition method according to any one of claims 1 to 3, characterized in that the request as transmitted is identical to the initial request.
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5. A description data acquisition method according to any one of claims 2 to 4, characterized in that, during

the request generation step (26), the initial request is extended by specifying at least one date and time.

5 6. A description data acquisition method according to claim 5, characterized in that, during the reception step (30), the data supplied is that corresponding to audiovisual content broadcast at the date and time specified in the request.

10 7. A description data acquisition method according to claim 5 or claim 6, characterized in that during the request generation step (26), the initial request is expanded by specifying a number of content items, and in that during the reception step (30), the data
15 supplied corresponds to the requested number of audiovisual content items broadcast starting from the date and time specified in the request.

20 8. A description data acquisition method according to any one of claims 2 to 4, characterized in that, during the request generation step (26), the initial request is extended by specifying a time interval, and in that during reception step (30), the data supplied relates to audiovisual content broadcast in the time interval
25 specified in the request.

9. A description data acquisition method according to claim 8, characterized in that the time interval is defined by a start date and time and by an end date and
30 time.

10. A description data acquisition method according to claim 8, characterized in that the time interval is defined by a start date and time and by a duration.

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11. A description data acquisition method according to any one of claims 2 to 10, characterized in that during

the request generation step (26), the initial request is extended by specifying keywords corresponding to the names of description elements for broadcast audiovisual content.

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12. A description data acquisition method according to any one of claims 2 to 11, characterized in that, following the step (30) of receiving description data, the method returns to the request generation step (26) in order to generate at least one new request associated with a new date and a new time corresponding to the end-of-broadcast date and time for the audiovisual content for which description data has just been received.

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13. A description data acquisition method according to any one of claims 1 to 12, characterized in that the step (20, 22, 24) of acquiring and storing an initial request comprises downloading (20) said request from a description server (16).

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14. A description data acquisition method according to any one of claims 1 to 13, characterized in that the step (20, 22, 24) of acquiring and storing an initial step comprises the receiver terminal (12) receiving (22) said initial request via a signaling channel associated with an audiovisual content broadcast channel.

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15. A description data acquisition method according to any one of claims 1 to 14, characterized in that the step (20, 22, 24) of acquiring and storing an initial request comprises a broadcast server (10) supplying (24) an SDP type file corresponding to an address field of a description server (16).

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16. A description data acquisition method according to any one of claims 1 to 15, characterized in that the description data is supplied in the form of an XML file.

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17. A description data acquisition method according to any one of claims 1 to 16, characterized in that the request is associated with a single audiovisual content broadcast channel.

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18. A description data acquisition method according to claim 17, characterized in that, while generating (26) the request for transmission, a set of broadcast channels is defined, and in that during transmission step (28), as many requests are transmitted as there are broadcast channels specified in the request.

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19. A system for acquiring description data for broadcast audiovisual channel, the system comprising at least one receiver terminal (12) for receiving audiovisual content and at least one audiovisual content description server (16), the system being characterized in that the receiver terminal (12) includes means for acquiring and storing at least one initial information request comprising the address of at least one description server (16), means for generating a request on the basis of the initial request, and means for transmitting said request to the description server, and in that the description server (16) includes means for transmitting to the receiver terminal (12) description data supplied as a function of the request.

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20. A description data acquisition system according to claim 19, characterized in that the description server (16) includes means for making an initial request available.

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21. A description data acquisition system according to claim 19 or claim 20, characterized in that the system includes at least one audiovisual content broadcast server (10), said server including means for transmitting initial requests together with the broadcast content.

22. An audiovisual content broadcast server (10) for implementing a description acquisition method according to any one of claims 1 to 18, characterized in that it includes transmission means for transmitting initial requests together with the broadcast content.

23. A broadcast server (10) according to claim 22, characterized in that the transmission means are regular transmission means.

24. A receiver terminal (12) for receiving audiovisual content to implement a description data acquisition method according to any one of claims 1 to 18, characterized in that it includes means for storing an initial request and means for generating a request to be transmitted on the basis of the initial request.

25. An audiovisual content description server (16) for implementing a description data acquisition method according to any one of claims 1 to 18, the server being characterized in that it includes means for making an initial request available.